

WYCOMBE OUT OF CUP AT WIMBLEDON

Sports Mail Special Report

POWERFUL Wimbledon dictated the play for much of the Amateur Cup third round game against Wycombe Wanderers at Wimbledon, and with the Wycombe backs often outwitted only a fine display by goalkeeper Brown saved the Wanderers from worse than the one goal by which Wimbledon won.

Wimbledon: McAlpine, J. Martin, Rudge, Ardrey, Law, Murphy, Brown, B. Martin, Reynolds, Moore, Keats.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown, Beck, Lewis, Thomas, Fisher, Gale, Worley, Blair, James, Bates, Horseman.

Referee: Mr. E. L. Rose.

Moving swiftly and purposefully in attack, Wimbledon split the Wycombe defence in the first minute when Murphy broke through and slipped a neat pass to Reynolds whose shot sped just wide.

Then a faulty clearance by Thomas almost went into his own goal.

WYCOMBE RAIDS

Wimbledon's burly forwards moved with a slick precision which had the Wycombe defence repeatedly on the retreat, and it came as no surprise when inside-left MOORE gave them the lead in the 11th minute after a smart combined move originated by right-back Martin.

Blair revived Wycombe's flagging hopes with a brilliant solo run and powerful shot which cleared the bar. But the home side's midfield grip was firm and the Wycombe attack was limited to sporadic raids.

Brown saved Wycombe when he threw himself back to hold a header from his namesake Les Brown, and a little later another flashing header from the dominating Eddie Reynolds went just over.

Another brilliant save by Brown foiled Reynolds again when he hooked in a shot from a difficult angle.

BAD LUCK

With the halves overworked in defence the Wycombe forwards lacked support and they found the home defence very fast off the mark. But they deserved better luck with one shot from the busy Horseman which Law diverted for a corner.

As the Wanderers hit back with more zest Gale and twice Horseman, who had moved inside, got in shots which were blocked or diverted.

For the first time in the five minutes immediately before half-time it was Wimbledon who were back pedalling furiously as Wycombe launched a series of desperate attacks.

Half-time: Wimbledon 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0.

Two more spectacular saves by Ken Brown, from Reynolds and Martin, were the highlights of the first ten minutes of the second half as the Dons renewed the assault with all their early fury after the Wycombe centre forward, James, had been injured and moved, hobbling, to the right wing.

Brown saved well again from Keats, and when a solo run by Bates took play briefly to the other end Blair won a cheer from the big contingent of Wycombe supporters with a shot which almost caught McAlpine napping.

Tension mounted as Wycombe began to hit back again, and bustling Wimbledon were pulled up several times for fouls.

Again Brown saved Wycombe with a one-handed clearance from Reynolds, who was unlucky two minutes later when with an open goal before him he headed against the upright.

James moved back into the centre, but the forwards, for all their enthusiasm, were still unable to sustain their attacks for very long and McAlpine was rarely very seriously tested.

Play swung quickly from end-to-end in the closing stages, but Wimbledon, although they had more attacking movements, were unable to pierce the tough Wycombe defence in which the gallant Brown remained the outstanding figure.

RESULT:

WIMBLEDON 1
WYCOMBE WANDERERS 0

BROWN STARS FOR WYCOMBE

Wimbledon 1 Wycombe 0

WYCOMBE coach Graham Adams charged Wimbledon with "destructive tactics" after his team's F.A. Amateur Cup defeat at Plough-lane (writes COLIN BARR).

Said Adams: "I don't give Wimbledon any credit for this win. They adopted destructive tactics, and I was disappointed that they should resort to such methods."

Wimbledon's brand of enthusiasm and tackling kept referee E. Rose busy throughout the second half. Maybe he should have been more severe with his reprimands.

Wimbledon's winning goal came in the 10th minute when a three-man move was finished by Mickey Moore, who scored from the six-yard line.

With Peter James a hobbling passenger, Wycombe staged a magnificent rearguard action round John Fisher and goalkeeper Ken Brown, who kept Wimbledon out with some amazing saves.

Eddie Reynolds was Wimbledon's most dangerous forward—and their unluckiest. Fifteen minutes from the end he headed against a post with every defender beaten.